

MANAGING MOMMY'S MATRICULATING MASSES: TIPS FOR HOMESCHOOLING YOUR LARGE FAMILY

A MENTOR MOM © CLASS

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Methods for organizing the teaching of Multiple Levels

“Divide and Conquer Method”

Works best with 2-4 children.

Children must be self motivated, excited learners, able to work on their own.

Requires space throughout the home for individual work stations.

Better for Moms who prefer fewer distractions and one on one time with each child.

Works better for those that have ADHD, but Mom will have to have a major “presence” with that child.

Mom may have to be a marathon runner to keep up with the needs of all children, moving from one child's station to another.

“One Room Classroom” Method

Works with 2-8 children and Babies

Divides children into similar learning levels

Requires children to be patient, and work in groups.

Requires a rather large open area that can be divided with baby gates, book shelves, room dividers, etc.

Works best if Mom is a serious multi-tasker. Also works best if Mom and kids can tune out distractions, NOT an ideal situation for those with ADHD.

Resources for Building your Homeschool

www.nationalgeographic.com

www.youtube.com –video's on many subjects always preview first!

www.discoveryeducation.com- has videos on many subjects. Science, History, Math Social Studies English, writing, etc. K-12. Many also have worksheets that coordinate with movies. It requires a membership, but several families can go in on a membership together and all can access it with a common password.

I have just discovered Bill Nye science videos in the i-tunes store. Also iTunes U has videos of various subjects through college level.

www.etv.org- public television

www.discountschoolsupply.com

Local Craig's list for furniture, library or school equipment.

www.ebay.com any book you could want, new or used!

Suggestions for teaching multiple levels Plan:

Develop yearly, weekly and daily plans for your home school. A plan can mean the difference between success and disaster.

Break down concepts into weekly increments; break down weekly concepts into daily increments.

Provide opportunities for group work in the mornings, and individual work in the afternoons.

Integrate Studies:

Rearrange curriculum if necessary to have all the children studying the same things at the same time. For instance Everyone studies Biology this year. Everyone studies botany in the fall, Human anatomy in the winter, and classification in the spring.

Vertical Teaching:

Basic one room school style. It's adapting the same subject to many different learning levels. Works with children on many different age levels. Teaching the whole group about Planets, then having your fifth grader write a page about his favorite planet, while your first grader writes vocabulary words (planet, gravity, etc) and draw a picture, while

Horizontal Teaching:

Works well if you have two or more children working on basically the same level. Several subjects are integrated into one lesson. For example you teach the lesson on planets, then everyone writes a paragraph on their favorite planet(English) figures out the distance between planets (Math) Draws a diagram of the solar system (ART!)

Presence:

Children don’t generally develop a steady work ability until they are 10-14 years old, depending on their gender and personality. A Mothers steady and stable influence in the home school is needed to make progress. Basically when you have a large group, “when the cat’s away the mice will play”. What Mom puts into her home school is what everyone takes out of it. A mother’s concerned, focused attention and devotion to her children can not be duplicated anywhere else in the world. A child, feeling that stability and love, can go and conquer anything!

Denise and her husband Craig have been homeschooling since their oldest hit high school. Since then, she graduated four of her 12 children and now is teaching Preschool through 12th grade.